

**MARCH OF RAJASTHAN DESERT INTO
ADJOINING DISTRICTS**

•161. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts from the Food and Agriculture Organisation have recently studied the problems connected with the march of the Rajasthan desert into the adjoining districts;

(b) if so, what are the remedial measures suggested or recommended by those experts; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against the advance of the desert?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) Yes, one expert in 1954.

(b) The remedial measures suggested were afforestation, planting of shelter belts, fixation of sand dunes, control over grazing, amelioration of pasture lands, etc.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XX, Annexure No. 17.]

MALARIA ERADICATION SCHEME

•162. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated cost of the Malaria Eradication Scheme; and

(b) what are the salient features of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) The total estimated cost of the Malaria Eradication Scheme for a period of six years beginning from 1958-59 is Rs. 54.57 crores.

(b) The salient features of the Malaria Eradication Scheme are: —

1. intensification of the existing control programme.

2. Extension of the Malaria Control Operation to hypoendemic areas with spleen rates of less than 10 per cent.

3. Establishment of surveillance procedure.

4. Interruption of spraying from the fourth year of eradication operations.

**DIRECT AIR LINK BETWEEN MOSCOW AND
DELHI**

♦163. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the head of the Soviet State Airline, Aeroflojt, had talks with the Government of India to link Moscow with Delhi by direct air route;

(b) if so, what is the result of the talks; and

(c) when the link is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) and (b). A team of officers of the Air-India International Corporation left for Moscow on 9th February, 1958 for discussing the technical and commercial aspects of a direct air service between Moscow and Delhi with the appropriate Soviet authorities.

(c) This depends on the conclusion of an air agreement with the U.S.S.R. Government.

**CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM
GWALIOR TO UJJAIN via SHIVPURI AND GUNA**

•164. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: